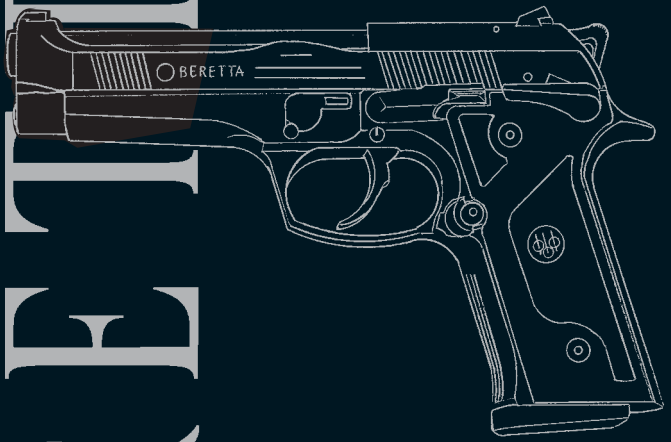
BERETTA

Series STEEL-I



Manuale di Istruzione
Instruction Manual
Mode d'Emploi
Manual de Instrucciones

Fig. 10

Fig. 11

Fig. 12

Fig. 13

Fig. 14

Fig. 15

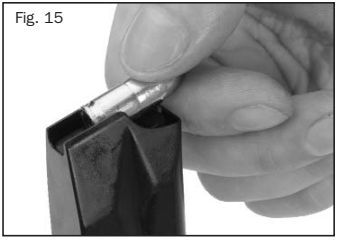


Fig. 16

Fig. 17

ENGLISH

Illustrations on pages 2, 55, 56, 176

ITALIANO pagina 3
FRANÇAIS page 87
ESPAÑOL página 131

ALWAYS KEEP THIS MANUAL WITH YOUR FIREARM. INCLUDE IT WITH THE PISTOL WHEN IT CHANGES OWNERSHIP OR WHEN IT IS LOANED OR PRESENTED TO ANOTHER PERSON.

NOTICE: The Manufacturer and/or its Local Official Distributors assume no responsibility for product malfunction or for physical injury or property damage resulting in whole or in part from criminal or negligent use of the product, improper or careless handling, unauthorized modifications, use of defective, improper, hand-loaded, reloaded or remanufactured ammunition*, customer abuse or neglect of the product, or other influences beyond manufacturer's direct and immediate control.

* See paragraph "Ammunition".

WARNING: Always ensure that the safety is fully engaged until ready to fire. A safety, which is not fully engaged, will not prevent firearm discharge.

WARNING: ALL FIREARMS HAVE LETHAL POTENTIAL. READ THE BASIC SAFETY RULES CAREFULLY AND UNDERSTAND THEM FULLY BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO USE THIS FIREARM.

In addition to the Basic Safety Rules, there are other Safety Rules pertaining to the loading, unloading, disassembly, assembly and use of this firearm, located throughout this manual.

WARNING: READ THE ENTIRE MANUAL CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THIS FIREARM. MAKE SURE THAT ANY PERSON USING OR HAVING ACCESS TO THIS FIREARM READS AND UNDERSTANDS ALL OF THIS MANUAL PRIOR TO USE OR ACCESS.

We recommend the use of original Beretta spare parts and accessories. The use of other manufacturer's spare parts and accessories could cause malfunctions and/or breakages that will not be covered by the Beretta Warranty.

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This instruction manual consists of 176 pages.

BASIC SAFETY RULES

WARNING: PLEASE READ THIS MANUAL BEFORE HANDLING YOUR FIREARM.

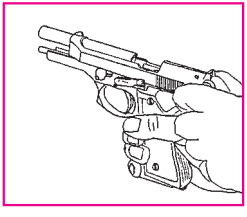
WARNING: FIREARMS CAN BE DANGEROUS AND CAN POTENTIALLY CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY, DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR DEATH, IF HANDLED IMPROPERLY. THE FOLLOWING SAFETY RULES ARE AN IMPORTANT REMINDER THAT FIREARM SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

1. NEVER POINT A FIREARM AT SOMETHING THAT IS NOT SAFE TO SHOOT.

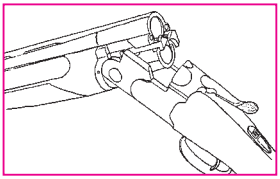
Never let the muzzle of a firearm point at any part of your body or at another person. This is especially important when loading or unloading the firearm. When you are shooting at a target, know what is behind it. Some bullets can travel over a mile. If you miss your target or if the bullet penetrates the target, it is your responsibility to ensure that the shot does not cause unintended injury or damage.

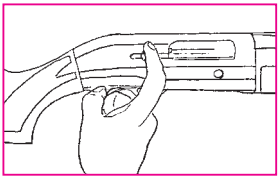
2. ALWAYS TREAT A FIREARM AS IF IT WERE LOADED.

Never assume that a firearm is unloaded. **The only certain way to ensure that a firearm has the chamber(s) empty is to open the chamber and visually and physically examine the inside to see if a round is present.**



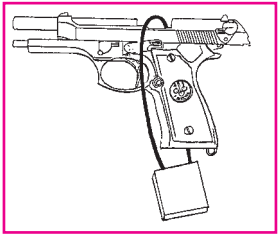
Removing or unloading the magazine will not guarantee that a firearm is unloaded or cannot fire. Shotguns and rifles can be checked by cycling or removing all rounds and by then opening and inspecting the chamber so that a visual inspection of the chamber for any remaining rounds can be made.

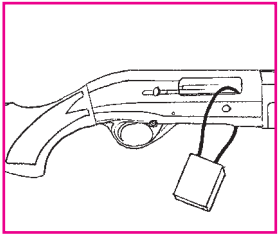




3. STORE YOUR FIREARM SO THAT CHILDREN CANNOT GAIN ACCESS TO IT.

It is your responsibility to ensure that children under the age of 18 or other unauthorized persons do not gain access to your firearm. **To reduce the risk of accidents involving children, unload your firearm, lock it and store the ammunition in a separate locked location.** Please note that devices intended to prevent accidents - for example, cable locks, chamber plugs, etc, - may not prevent use or misuse of your firearm by a determined person. Firearm storage in a steel gun safe may be more appropriate to reduce the likelihood of intentional misuse of a firearm by an unauthorized child or person.





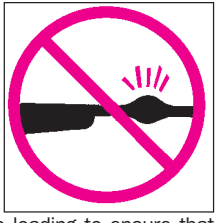
4. NEVER SHOOT AT WATER OR AT A HARD SURFACE.

Shooting at the surface of water or at a rock or other hard surface increases the chance of ricochets or fragmentation of the bullet or shot, which can result in the projectile striking an unintended or peripheral target.

5. KNOW THE SAFETY FEATURES OF THE FIREARM YOU ARE USING, BUT REMEMBER: SAFETY DEVICES ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR SAFE HANDLING PROCEDURES.

Never rely solely on a safety device to prevent an accident. It is imperative that you know and use the safety features of the particular firearm you are handling, but accidents can best be prevented by following the safe handling procedures described in these safety rules and elsewhere in the product manual. To further familiarize yourself with the proper use of this or other firearms, take a Firearms Safety Course taught by an expert in firearms use and safety procedures.

6. PROPERLY MAINTAIN YOUR FIREARM.



Store and carry your firearm so that dirt or lint does not accumulate in the working parts. Clean and oil your firearm, following the instructions provided in this manual, after each use to prevent corrosion, damage to the barrel or accumulation of impurities which can prevent use of the gun in an emergency. Always check the bore and chamber(s) prior to loading to ensure that they are clean and free from obstructions. **Firing with an obstruction in the barrel or chamber can rupture the barrel and injure you or others nearby**. In the event you hear an unusual noise when shooting, stop firing immediately, engage the manual safety and unload the firearm. Make sure the chamber and barrel are free from any obstruction, like a bullet blocked inside the barrel due to defective or improper ammunition.

7. USE PROPER AMMUNITION.

Only use factory-loaded, new ammunition manufactured to industry specifications: CIP (Europe and elsewhere), SAAMI (U.S.A.). Be certain that each round you use is in the proper caliber or gauge and type for the particular firearm. The caliber or gauge of the firearm is clearly marked on the barrels of shotguns and on the slide or barrel of pistols. The use of reloaded or remanufactured ammunition can increase the likelihood of excessive cartridge pressures, case-head ruptures or other defects in the ammunition that can cause damage to your firearm and injury to yourself or others nearby.

8. ALWAYS WEAR PROTECTIVE GLASSES AND EARPLUGS WHEN SHOOTING.

The chance that gas, gunpowder or metal fragments will blow back and injure a shooter who is firing a gun is rare, but the injury that can be sustained in such circumstances can be severe, including the possible loss of eyesight. A shooter must always wear impact resistant shooting glasses when firing any firearm. Earplugs or other high-quality hearing protectors help reduce the chance of hearing damage from shooting.

9. NEVER CLIMB A TREE, FENCE OR OBSTRUCTION WITH A LOADED FIREARM.

Open and empty the chamber(s) of your firearm and engage the manual safety before climbing or descending a tree or before climbing a fence or jumping over a ditch or other obstruction. Never pull or push a loaded firearm toward yourself or another person. Always unload a firearm, visually and physically check to see that the magazine, loading mechanism and chamber

are unloaded, and action is open before handing it to another person. Never take a firearm from another person unless it is unloaded, visually and physically checked to confirm it is unloaded, and the action is open.

10. AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR JUDGMENT/REFLEX IMPAIRING MEDICATION WHEN SHOOTING.

Do not drink and shoot. If you take medication that can impair motor reactions or judgment, do not handle a firearm while you are under the influence of the medication.

11. NEVER TRANSPORT A LOADED FIREARM.

Unload a firearm before putting it in a vehicle (chamber empty, magazine empty). Hunters and target shooters should load their firearm only at their destination, and only when they are ready to shoot. If you carry a firearm for self-protection, leaving the chamber unloaded can reduce the chance of an unintentional discharge.

12. LEAD WARNING.

Discharging firearms in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms, or handling ammunition may result in exposure to lead and other substances known to cause birth defects, reproductive harm, and other serious physical injury. Have adequate ventilation at all times. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure.

WARNING: It is YOUR responsibility to know and abide by Federal, State and Local laws governing the sale, transportation and use of firearms in your area.

Especially for U.S. consumers:
For information about Firearm Safety Courses in your area, please visit the National Rifle Association's web site at www.nra.org.

WARNING: This firearm has the capability of taking your life or the life of someone else! Always be extremely careful with your firearm. An accident is almost always the result of not following basic firearm safety rules.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

decocked hammer-safety disengaged

Fig. 3

decocked hammer-safety engaged

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

cocked hammer-safety disengaged

Fig. 6

cocked hammer-safety engaged

Fig. 7

**half-cocked hammer
safety disengaged
single/double action mod. only**

Fig. 8

**half-cocked hammer
safety engaged
single/double action mod. only**

Fig. 9

DESCRIPTION

The new Beretta 92/98/96 Steel I is the synthesis of the long-standing experience of the model 92, manufactured in well over two million units and reconfirms Beretta's tradition of steel framed pistols. Designed with extreme attention to details the Beretta 92/98/96 Steel I pistol is created with the true connoisseurs, the expert marksmen and collectors in mind. This exclusive 92 model sports numerous special features, like its steel frame, the slim lines of its "vertical" grip, the "flush" barrel, the recoil-reducing slide, already tested in the Brigadier, Stock, Combat and Billennium models, the ambidextrous, frame-mounted safety and the skeletonized hammer. Other features are the Novak rear sight with white dots, the thin dual textured grips and the Beretta satin/polished grey finish, which is a special nickel-alloy based plating that ensures an extraordinary resistance to punishing and harsh weather conditions and gives the pistol its unmatched look. The Beretta 92/98/96 Steel I is available in calibers 9mm x 19 Parabellum (Luger), 9mm x 21 IMI and .40 S&W, both in a traditional single/double action and a single action only version. The single action only model features a micrometric adjustment of the trigger's pre and over travel. The Beretta 92/98/96 Steel I is qualified to compete in the IDPA competitions.

SAFETY FEATURES

NOTICE: The figure numbers noted below refer to the photographs on pages 2, 55, 56, 173.

Frame mounted safety (Fig. 1-5/A). All 92/98/96 Steel I pistols feature an ambidextrous manual safety on the frame that locks the sear and the slide in the closed position. The manual safety can be engaged when the hammer is in decocked or cocked position **(Fig. 4 and 7)**. On the single/double action versions the safety can be also engaged with the hammer in half-cocked position **(Fig. 9)**. The manual safety cannot be engaged with the slide in the open position.

Automatic Firing Pin Block (Fig. 1/B). The 92/98/96 Steel I pistols have a blocking device that prevents forward movement of the firing pin unless the trigger is pulled. This feature is intended to prevent discharge if the pistol is dropped or if the hammer is unintentionally dropped without pulling the trigger.

Loaded chamber indicator (Fig. 2). The loaded chamber indicator is a small red tab (extractor) that protrudes further from the slide when a round is in the chamber. The tab is located on the right side of the pistol's slide, near the cartridge chamber, and can be both seen and felt, allowing the user to check the chamber at night by feel or during the day by checking for the increased protrusion of the red tab.

Note: The most certain way to check whether a pistol is loaded is to pull back on the slide and visually inspect the chamber for a round. Loaded chamber indicators are designed primarily to allow noiseless inspection of the pistol to ensure that it is loaded in situations when it may be dangerous to operate the slide (the action of pulling back on the slide may make noise and will temporarily render the pistol inoperable) or when it is dark.

WARNING: In order to permit the use of the pistol in emergency situations, even in the case of involuntary dropping or loss of the magazine, these models are NOT provided with a magazine safety. They are therefore capable of firing, when a round is chambered, even if the magazine has not been inserted or if it has been removed or if it has been dislodged from its seat.

Slide catch (Fig. 1/C). The slide catch is a lever that holds the slide open and rearward after the last round is fired. This allows the user to immediately determine that the pistol does not have a round in the chamber or in the magazine.

Slide overtravel stop. The hammer pin head has been enlarged to enter a matching groove cut into the slide rail to stop slide breech recoil overtravel.

External hammer (Fig. 1/D). The external hammer allows the user to visually and immediately determine that the hammer is cocked or lowered.

Half-cock notch (on hammer) – single/double action versions only (Fig. 8 and 9). The hammer of the 92/98/96 Steel I single/double action pistol features a half-cock notch that will catch on the sear, before striking the firing pin, should the hammer be released inadvertently by violently striking or dropping the pistol.

OPERATIONAL AND ANATOMICAL FEATURES

Semi-automatic firing. Model 92/98/96 Steel I pistols will automatically reload after each round is fired, as long as there are cartridges in the magazine.

The locked-breech locking system with falling locking block and the barrel short recoil operation are a warranty of long-life and shooting accuracy.

Single action. (All 92/98/96 Steel I models). The short and light single action trigger pull allows for faster, more accurate discharge of subsequent rounds. Single/double action pistols fire double action on the first round and single action on subsequent rounds. In this last version, the first round can be fired in single action trigger pull if the hammer is manually cocked prior to pulling the trigger.

Double action. (92/98/96 Steel I single/double action models only). Also considered a safety feature during emergency use of a pistol, the double action trigger pull both cocks and drops the hammer in the same motion. This allows immediate firing of the weapon without requiring that the hammer be independently manipulated. Double action trigger pull is considered a safety feature because it allows the user to attempt to refire a non-firing cartridge simply by pulling the trigger a second time. The length of trigger pull also helps reduce the likelihood of unintentional discharge.

Conversion of mode of operation (single/double to single action only or single action only to single/double action). The Beretta 92/98/96 Steel I pistols are predisposed for conversion of their mode of operation from single/double to single action only and viceversa (only where allowed by local laws). The conversion requires the replacement of several pistol components.

WARNING: This operation must be carried out by a competent gunsmith.

Micrometric adjustment of the trigger (92/98/96 Steel I single action models only) (Fig. 5/E). 92/98/96 Steel I single action models feature a competition tuned trigger with screw to adjust the extra short let-off (pretravel) and overtravel.

Removable, high capacity magazine (Fig. 1/O). Model 92/98/96 Steel I pistols have a quickly removable, high capacity magazine which allows rapid reloading and extended use in emergency situations.
The type and capacity of magazine for 92/98/96 Steel I pistols is as follows:
92 Steel I cal. 9mm x 19 - 15* - round, staggered magazine.
98 Steel I cal. 9mm x 21 IMI - 15 - round, staggered magazine.
96 Steel I cal. .40 S&W - 11* - round, staggered magazine.

* Commercial pistols sold in the US market are supplied with 10-round magazines in accordance with US Federal Guidelines for Commercial Sales.

Simple field stripping and cleaning (Fig. 1-5/F). The disassembly device is designed to allow an extremely quick and simple field stripping of the pistol and also to avoid casual or involuntary disassembly. A pistol which can be easily field stripped can be more readily cleaned. Simple cleaning makes it easier for the user to properly maintain the pistol, which helps ensure continued reliability.

Steel frame (Fig. 1/G). All 92/98/96 Steel I pistols feature the exclusive frame manufactured with high resistance steel and special Beretta satin/polished nickel-alloy based finish. The increase in weight of the firearm, due to the use of steel, has been limited thanks to the slimming of the frame's structure, giving the pistol better stability during firing.

Recoil reducing slide (Fig. 1/H). The slide has been widened near the slide rails. The reconfigured front profile also allows for a removable dovetailed front sight. Front and rear slide serrations enable easier racking during manual operation.

Ambidextrous safety lever (Fig. 1-5/A). Frame mounted, ambidextrous for easier thumb access. Extended length and width.

Sights (Fig. 1/I). Front and rear sights are dovetailed into the slide for possible replacement. 3-dot sight system is designed for quick target acquisition. The popular and easily recognized rear Novak sight also lengthens the sight radius by several millimeters.

Grip (Fig. 1/L). The vertical grip, ergonomically designed, is suitable for small handed shooters, while enhancing the aestethic of the pistol. The front and back straps of the grip are fully serrated to ensure a firm hold.

Plastic panels (Fig. 5/N). The thin dual textured grip panels guarantee a sure grip and maximum control during rapid fire.

Extended reversible magazine release button (Fig. 1-5/M). The magazine release button can easily be assembled on the right side of the pistol for left handed shooters. It features extended dimensions for competition use.

Skeletonized hammer (Fig. 1/D). The skeletonized hammer gives the pistol a new and distinctive look.

SPECIFICATIONS

Versions	Single action only and single/double action		
Model	92 Steel I	98 Steel I	96 Steel I
Caliber	9mmx19 (Parabellum or Luger)	9mmx21 IMI	40 S&W
*Magazine capacity (rounds)**	10, 15	15	10, 11
Rifling twist (mm/in)	250/9.84	250/9.84	400/15.7
Rifling	R.H., 6 grooves.		
Operation	Semiautomatic, short recoil of the barrel		
Locking system	Locked-breech, falling block		
Action	Single action only or single/double action versions		
Sights	Front and rear sights dovetailed into the slide. Removable.		
Hammer	Exposed		
Safeties	Automatic firing pin blocking device. Manual safety on the frame: it can be applied with hammer lowered or cocked.		
Frame	Steel, with special Beretta satin grey nickel-alloy based finish and polished sides.		
Slide	Steel, with special Beretta satin grey nickel-alloy based finish and polished sides.		
Barrel	Steel, with special Beretta polished grey nickel-alloy based finish. Chrome plated bore and chamber.		
Overall length	(mm/in) 211/8.3		
Barrel length	(mm/in) 119/4.7		
Overall width	(mm/in) 41/1.6		
Overall height	(mm/in) 139/5.5		
Sight radius	(mm/in) 165/6.5		
Weight unloaded Without magazine	(gr/oz) 1100/38.8 approx.		

* Commercial pistols sold in the US market are supplied with 10-round magazines in accordance with US Federal Guidelines for Commercial Sales.

GENERAL OPERATION

Beretta's 92/98/96 Steel I semi-automatic pistols use a short recoil locked-breech system with falling block.
When the pistol is fired, the pressure developed by combustion gas recoils the slide-barrel assembly. After a short run of slide-barrel assembly, the locking block falls and releases the slide letting it recoil while the barrel stops against frame. The slide, during its rearward movement, extracts and ejects the fired cartridge case, cocks the hammer and activates the recoil spring. Pushed by the recoil spring, the slide then moves forward feeding the next cartridge from the magazine into the chamber and causing barrel-slide locking.
The slide is designed to stay open after the last cartridge has been fired and ejected.

LOAD CHECK

At various points in this manual you will be instructed to "visually check to be certain your Beretta 92/98/96 Steel I pistol is unloaded." This should become second nature to you, as you should:

- Never assume that a firearm is unloaded (even a gun that is new and in its original packaging).
- Never point or push a firearm toward yourself or another person.
- Always visually check to see that the chamber is unloaded.
- Remove the magazine and block the slide in the open position before handing the pistol to another person.
- Never take or pull this pistol from another person unless the magazine is removed, the slide is open and the chamber has been visually checked to confirm it is unloaded.

To visually check to be certain your pistol is unloaded, carefully follow the steps below.

WARNING: Keep your finger OFF THE TRIGGER and the barrel pointed in a SAFE direction.

- Remove the magazine by depressing the magazine release button. **(Fig. 10)**
- Retract the slide. Visually inspect the cartridge chamber to ensure that it is empty. The chamber is empty when no cartridge is visible when looking into the open chamber. **(Fig. 11)**

Releasing the slide when a magazine is not in the pistol will automatically close the slide. Always keep your finger away from the ejection port. To keep the slide in the open position, without the magazine in the pistol, fully retract the slide and press the slide catch upward with your thumb **(Fig. 1/C)** and release the slide. The slide will be blocked in the open position.
The slide remains open when an empty magazine is inserted or when the slide catch is pressed upwards.

If the pistol is unloaded, proceed to the following step, otherwise refer to the procedure: UNLOADING THE PISTOL.

- Gently accompany the slide to the closed position. If the slide is blocked in the open position by the slide catch or by an empty magazine inserted in the pistol, press the slide catch downwards to close the slide.

WARNING: Always keep your finger away from the ejection port.

WARNING: THE HAMMER IS COCKED. With the barrel pointed in a safe direction, decock the hammer by following the instruction given in the next paragraph.

HOW TO LOWER THE COCKED HAMMER

WARNING: Keep the firearm pointed in a SAFE direction. Be sure the pistol is unloaded otherwise refer to the procedure: UNLOADING THE PISTOL.

WARNING: THE HAMMER LOWERING OPERATION MUST ONLY BE PERFORMED WITH THE PISTOL UNLOADED AND THE BARREL CHAMBER EMPTY. This is due to the fact that the 92/98/96 Steel I pistols do not feature mechanisms that permit decocking of the hammer with a round chambered and the safety on the frame does not function as a decocking device.

WARNING: Failing to manually control the hammer, when the trigger is completely pulled, causes the pistol to fire if a cartridge is in the chamber. In this condition, the automatic safety on the firing pin and the half-cock notch on the hammer (if present) are disengaged by the complete rearward position of the trigger. Releasing the trigger, immediately after having decocked the hammer, reactivates the firing pin safety and the half-cock notch (if present).

WARNING: The hammer of the 92/98/96 Steel I single action only pistols DOES NOT FEATURE A HALF-COCK NOTCH.

WARNING: The hammer of the 92/98/96 Steel I single/double action pistols features a half-cock notch **(Fig. 8 and 9)**. The only purpose of the half-cock notch is to prevent the accidental impact of the striker by the hammer subsequent to violent impact or dropping of the firearm. The operation of the half-cock notch is deactivated by pulling the trigger. It is not recommended to keep the hammer engaged on the half-cock notch.

Before loading the pistol and introducing a round into the chamber, it is extremely important to practice lowering the cocked hammer with the unloaded pistol. Notice that there are three separate hammer positions:

Hammer fully lowered (Fig. 3 and 4): The hammer is in the fully lowered position. The pull on the trigger on the 92/98/96 Steel I

single/double action models will first cock the hammer and then release it to strike the firing pin. The pistol will fire if a round in the chamber is present.

Hammer in the half-cock position (92/98/96 Steel I in single/double action only) (Fig. 8 and 9): By pulling the hammer rearward to the second position you will feel and hear the hammer "click" into the half-cock notch. The pull on the trigger on the double action mode will first cock the hammer and then release it to strike the firing pin. The pistol will fire if a round in the chamber is present.

Hammer in the full-cock position (Fig. 6 and 7): By pulling the hammer rearward to the third position you will feel and hear the hammer (click) into the full-cock notch. The hammer is now in the firing position. By pulling the trigger rearward the pistol will fire if a round in the chamber is present.

To lower the hammer after checking that the firing chamber is empty follow the steps below **(Fig. 12 and 13)**:

- While controlling the hammer with the thumb, pull the trigger and gently ease the hammer slightly forward with the thumb while continuing to pull the trigger.
- Release the trigger and continue easing the hammer into the half-cock notch **(Fig. 8)** (92/98/96 Steel I single/double action models only) or into the fully lowered position **(Fig. 3)**.

On the 92/98/96 Steel I single/double action models, to totally lower the hammer it is necessary to completely keep the trigger pulled until the hammer bypasses the half-cock notch.

OBSTRUCTION CHECK

Check the barrel to be sure there are no obstructions in the chamber and bore. This is extremely important because if another cartridge is fired into an obstructed barrel, a catastrophic failure can result.

- Remove the magazine by depressing the magazine release button. **(Fig. 10)**
- Retract the slide.
  Releasing the slide when a magazine is not in the pistol will automatically close the slide. Always keep your finger away from the ejection port. To keep the slide in the open position, without the magazine in the pistol, fully retract the slide and press the slide catch upward with your thumb **(Fig. 1/C)** and release the slide. The slide will be blocked in the open position. The slide remains open when an empty magazine is inserted or when the slide catch is pressed upwards.
- Look down the barrel from the muzzle (or front) end so that you can see completely through the barrel to make sure no obstruction exists.

If an obstruction in the barrel is detected, a qualified gunsmith must remove the obstruction and inspect the pistol before it can be fired.

- Gently accompany the slide to the closed position. If the slide is blocked in the open position by the slide catch or by an empty magazine inserted in the pistol, press the slide catch downward to close the slide. **(Fig. 14)**

! **WARNING:** Always keep your finger away from the ejection port.

! **WARNING:** THE HAMMER IS COCKED. With the barrel pointed in a safe direction, decock the hammer by following the instruction given in the previous paragraph.

AMMUNITION

AMMUNITION (CARTRIDGE) NOTICE: Beretta specifically disclaim responsibility for any damage or injury whatsoever occurring in connection with, or as the result of, the use in Beretta 92/98/96 Steel I pistol of faulty, or non-standard, or "remanufactured," or hand-loaded (reloaded) ammunition, or cartridges other than those for which the firearm was originally chambered. Use of reloaded ammunition will void the manufacturer's warranty.

Use only high-quality, commercially-manufactured ammunition that is manufactured in accordance with CIP (Europe and elsewhere) or SAAMI (USA) standards. Be certain that the ammunition is the appropriate caliber and loading for the firearm and is clean, dry, and in good condition. The cartridge designation for your pistol is marked on the top of the barrel.

WARNING: Carefully inspect each cartridge before it is loaded in the magazine. Be certain the cartridge cases are not split, deformed, or the cartridges do not possess any other dents or defects (this applies even to factory ammunition).

Do not fire old ammunition in this firearm. Primers, powder, cartridge cases, and bullets can deteriorate with time and cause damage to the firearm, or injury to the shooter or others.

WARNING: The extended use of +P, +P+ ammunition may decrease the major components service life expectancy.
DO NOT use sub-machine gun ammunition because the chamber pressure may reach or exceed proof load pressure.
Lead bullets have a tendency to cause bore leading, which may dramatically increase the discharge pressure.
Make sure to remove all chamber and bore lead accumulation after each use.
DO NOT ever shoot cartridges with jacketed bullets through a barrel previously fired with lead bullets before the bore is thoroughly deleaded.

DRY FIRING/"DUMMY" ROUNDS

Dry firing is defined as firing a firearm with no ammunition in the chamber. Long term dry firing your Beretta 92/98/96 pistol may result in damage to the action. "Snap caps" (inert chamber inserts that allow a firearm to be dry-fired without damaging the action) are available at most gun stores for those who wish to practice firing without live ammunition.

CAUTION: If you want to practice shooting your pistol without using live ammunition (called "dry firing"), insert an appropriate "snap cap" into the chamber to cushion the fall of the firing pin and reduce the chance of firing pin breakage. "Snap cap" cartridges with spring loaded "primers" are ideal.
"DUMMY" cartridges with empty primer pockets are good for loading/unloading practice but DO NOT protect the firing pin during dry firing.

LOADING

WARNING: This pistol can fire even if the magazine is empty or has been removed, whenever a live round is in the chamber.

WARNING: Before loading the firearm, become familiar with the following loading procedures without the use of ammunition. Never handle a loaded firearm until you are fully familiar with the loading procedures. Always point the firearm in a safe direction.

WARNING: Always keep your finger away from the trigger whenever you do not intend to fire.
Make sure the pistol is not already loaded. See paragraph "LOAD CHECK".

WARNING: LOAD THE CHAMBER ONLY WHEN READY TO FIRE.

LOADING THE MAGAZINE

WARNING: Be sure that you have the correct cartridges for your pistol.

- To load the magazine, remove it from the pistol by depressing the magazine release button. **(Fig. 10)**

- Hold the magazine in one hand. With the other hand place a cartridge on the magazine follower in front of the lips at the top of the magazine. Press the cartridge down onto the follower and slide the cartridge completely under the lips until it is lodged fully inside the magazine body. **(Fig. 15)**
- Repeat process until magazine is fully loaded. Holes on the back of the magazine allow for visual counting of cartridges. **(Fig. 1/0)**

CAUTION: Do not try to force more than the maximum number of rounds indicated for your particular pistol into the magazine. An overloaded magazine may not function properly.

LOADING THE PISTOL AND THE FIRING CHAMBER

WARNING: Beretta assumes no responsibility for any injury or property damage resulting from improper or careless handling, intentional or accidental discharge of the firearm.

WARNING: Be sure that the obstruction check has been completed prior to loading.

WARNING: Point the firearm in a safe direction. Do not touch the trigger until you are ready to shoot and are sure of your target and backstop.

The firing chamber of the pistol is the portion of the barrel into which the cartridge is fed. The firing chamber may be loaded in one of three ways:

1. LOADING FROM MAGAZINE

- Push the loaded magazine into the pistol grip completely to insure catch engagement.
- Release the manual safety, if engaged.
- Pull back the slide and release it. The slide will automatically pick up a cartridge from the top of the magazine and feed it into the chamber. **(Fig. 16)**

WARNING: THE PISTOL IS NOW CHAMBER LOADED, COCKED, MANUAL SAFETY DISENGAGED AND READY TO FIRE BY PULLING THE TRIGGER. IMMEDIATELY ENGAGE THE MANUAL SAFETY by rotating the safety lever with a fully upward thumb pressure **(Fig. 7)** so as to cover the red warning dot. The red dot is visible when the manual safety is disengaged.

WARNING: The manual safety is merely a mechanical device and is in no way a substitute for the Basic Safety Rules of firearm handling.

2. DIRECT CHAMBER LOADING

- Release the manual safety, if engaged.
- Pull open the slide. The slide remains open when an empty magazine is inserted or the slide catch is pressed upwards.
- Insert a round into the chamber.
- Press the slide catch to close the slide.

WARNING: THE PISTOL IS NOW CHAMBER LOADED, COCKED, MANUAL SAFETY DISENGAGED AND READY TO FIRE BY PULLING THE TRIGGER. IMMEDIATELY ENGAGE THE MANUAL SAFETY by rotating the safety lever with a fully upward thumb pressure **(Fig. 7)** so as to cover the red warning dot. The red dot is visible when the manual safety is disengaged.

WARNING: The manual safety is merely a mechanical device and is in no way a substitute for the Basic Safety Rules of firearm handling.

3. A PISTOL WHICH IS LOADED AND FIRED WILL AUTOMATICALLY PICK UP THE NEXT ROUND AND FEED IT INTO THE FIRING CHAMBER AS LONG AS THERE IS AMMUNITION IN THE MAGAZINE.

NOTICE: Beretta 92/98/96 Steel I pistols are equipped with an automatic safety which prevents firing pin protrusion beyond the breech face. This safety is overcome only by trigger pull.

If you want to replace the round which has been chambered from the magazine (remember that you are handling a loaded firearm with a live round in the chamber):

- Check the manual safety is engaged.
- Remove the magazine from the pistol by depressing the magazine release button.
- Insert one more cartridge into the magazine.
- Completely push the loaded magazine into the pistol grip to insure catch engagement.

WARNING: REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE HANDLING A LOADED FIREARM, WITH A LIVE ROUND IN THE CHAMBER. Keep your finger away from the trigger whenever you do not intend to fire.

UNLOADING

WARNING: Always unload the firearm whenever you do not intend to shoot.

WARNING: THE HAMMER LOWERING OPERATION MUST ONLY BE PERFORMED WITH THE PISTOL UNLOADED AND THE BARREL CHAMBER EMPTY. This is due to the fact that the 92/98/96 Steel I pistols do not feature mechanisms that permit decocking of the hammer with a round chambered and the safety on the frame does not function as a decocking device. See paragraph: "HOW TO LOWER THE COCKED HAMMER".

WARNING: Be certain the pistol is pointed in a SAFE direction. Keep your finger away from the trigger.

- Make sure that the safety is engaged.
- Keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction and remove the loaded magazine from the frame.
- Disengage the manual safety and grasping the slide serrations with thumb and index finger, fully retract the slide to remove the chambered cartridge.

WARNING: Always visually inspect the firing chamber to ensure that it is empty. The chamber is empty when no cartridge is visible when looking into the open chamber. **(Fig. 11)**

WARNING: If you are ejecting unfired cartridges, use extreme care to be sure they are ejected onto an appropriate surface. Never attempt to catch cartridges or fired cartridge cases as they fall.

WARNING: Never allow anything to come in contact with the primer of unfired ammunition. Doing so could cause the ammunition to explode.

- When sure that the chamber is empty and the cartridge has been ejected, release the slide.

WARNING: Releasing the fully retracted slide when a loaded magazine is in the pistol will feed a cartridge into the pistol's firing chamber. Having the hammer cocked, the pistol will be in the condition of being able to fire immediately.

- Lower the hammer as indicated in the paragraph "HOW TO LOWER THE COCKED HAMMER".

NOTICE: The pistol should be stored UNLOADED, uncocked, manual safety engaged and magazine empty.

UNLOADING THE MAGAZINE

- To unload the magazine, grasp it with one hand around the magazine box, bottom down and front end forward. With the tip of the thumb firmly press down on the cartridge rim and push towards the front of magazine box. As the cartridge moves forward, tip it slightly upward with the index finger.
- Repeat until the magazine is unloaded.

FIRING

WARNING: IN CASE OF INTERRUPTION OF FIRING BEFORE THE MAGAZINE IS EMPTY AND THE CHAMBERED ROUND IS FIRED, IT IS NECESSARY TO UNLOAD THE PISTOL BEFORE LOWERING THE HAMMER.

WARNING: Beretta assumes no responsibility for any injury or property damage resulting from improper or careless handling, intentional or accidental discharge of the firearm.

WARNING: Only point a firearm at something safe to shoot. Never put your finger on the trigger unless you intend to shoot. Never disengage the safety on a firearm unless you intend to shoot.

WARNING: Always wear high-quality eye and ear protection when firing any firearm. Be certain that others near-by are wearing high-quality eye and ear protection and are to the rear of the shooter, when firing any firearm.

- Insert the magazine into the pistol and the round into the firing chamber following the instructions previously described.
- Make sure the manual safety is engaged (safety lever rotated upwards and red dot covered).

WARNING: Do not touch the trigger until you are ready to shoot and are sure of your target and backstop.

- Without placing the finger on the trigger or inside the trigger guard, point the pistol at the intended target and aim the pistol by aligning the front and rear sights on the target. Place the front sight on your target. The front sight should be in focus, the target and the rear sight slightly blurred or out of focus.

WHEN READY TO FIRE:

- Release the manual safety by simply pushing the manual safety lever down all the way. **(Fig. 6)**

The red warning dot, which is exposed when the safety lever is rotated completely downward, indicates that the safety is off.

WARNING: THE PISTOL IS NOW READY TO FIRE.

- Place your index finger inside the trigger guard.

WARNING: Ensure that fingers or other parts of the hands and the face are kept away from the recoiling slide. Not respecting this warning can lead to serious injury since, during the firing cycle, the slide recoils backwards violently and with great energy. Ensure that the support hand is far from the muzzle of the barrel.

- Gently squeeze the trigger, being careful not to upset the alignment of the front and rear sights. THE PISTOL WILL FIRE.

NOTICE: 92/98/96 Steel I single action only models:
Since the hammer is cocked, the pull on the trigger simply releases the hammer letting it strike the firing pin. This firing mode is called **single action**. If the hammer is uncocked, keep the firearm pointed at the target and manually cock the hammer.

NOTICE: 92/98/96 Steel I single/double action models:
Since the hammer is cocked, the pull on the trigger simply releases the hammer letting it strike the firing pin. This firing mode is called **single action**.
After the first shot the pistol will always fire in the **single action** mode.
If the hammer is uncocked, the pull on the trigger will first cock the hammer and then release it, letting it strike the firing pin. This firing mode is called **double action**.

The discharge will recoil the slide which, in turn, will eject the fired cartridge case, cock the hammer and activate the recoil spring. Then the slide will automatically close, feeding the next cartridge from the magazine into the chamber.

WARNING: THE PISTOL IS STILL CHAMBER LOADED, COCKED AND READY TO FIRE AGAIN. Keep your finger away from the trigger whenever you do not intend to fire and engage the manual safety.

- When the last round has been fired the slide remains open. **(Fig. 17)**

- To fire again, remove the empty magazine and insert a loaded one.

- Press the slide catch to close the slide and to load the chamber. **(Fig. 14)**
- Engage the manual safety and keep your finger away from the trigger whenever you do not intend to fire.
- When the last round has been fired the slide remains open.

WARNING: THE HAMMER IS COCKED. If you have completed shooting, remove the magazine, check that the firing chamber is empty and close the slide by pressing the slide catch. Lower the hammer as indicated in the paragraph "HOW TO LOWER THE COCKED HAMMER" and engage the manual safety.

WARNING: Always unload the firearm immediately after shooting is completed. Never store a loaded firearm. To store the pistol see the paragraph "STORAGE".

If while firing the trigger is pulled and the firearm does not immediately fire:

CEASE FIRING IMMEDIATELY!

- Keep the firearm pointed in a SAFE direction in the event a "hang-fire" has occurred. A hang-fire occurs when there is a delay in a cartridge's ignition.
- With the pistol pointed in a SAFE direction, wait one (1) full minute.
- After one (1) full minute has elapsed, completely unload the firearm by following the unloading instructions in this manual.
- Carefully inspect your ammunition.
- Immediately refer to a qualified gunsmith if the firing pin indent on a fired cartridge's primer is light, off-center or does not exist.
- Retract the slide and and visually check the firing chamber to be sure there are no obstructions in the barrel. If a barrel obstruction is detected, a qualified gunsmith must remove the obstruction and inspect the pistol before it can be fired.

WARNING: If another cartridge is fired into an obstructed barrel, a catastrophic failure can result.

WARNING: Never attempt to fire ammunition that did not fire the first time.

If, while firing, you hear a change in the sound a fired cartridge makes, or feel a change in the amount of recoil of a fired cartridge, or detect any other irregularity:

CEASE FIRING IMMEDIATELY!

- Keep the firearm pointed in a SAFE direction. A "squib load" may have occurred. A "squib" occurs when a cartridge fires, but with insufficient force to drive the bullet out of the barrel. This can result in a dangerous bore obstruction.

WARNING: If another cartridge is fired into an obstructed barrel, a catastrophic failure can result.

- With the gun pointed in a SAFE direction, completely unload the firearm by following the unloading instructions in this manual.
- Retract the slide and and visually check the firing chamber to be sure there are no obstructions in the barrel. If a barrel obstruction is detected, a qualified gunsmith must remove the obstruction and inspect the pistol before it can be fired.
- Carefully inspect your ammunition.

WARNING: Never attempt to reuse or fire ammunition that did not fire the first time. Dispose of unfired or damaged ammunition properly, per the ammunition manufacturer's recommendation.

WARNING: Always unload the firearm immediately after shooting is completed. Never store a loaded firearm. To store the pistol see the paragraph "STORAGE".

FIELD STRIPPING

WARNING: Make sure the pistol is unloaded. If not, unload it following the “UNLOADING“ procedure.

CAUTION: It is recommended to wear protective glasses when performing the field stripping and the assembly operations.

NOTICE: It is advisable to carry out the field stripping and the assembly operations over a table to catch components should they drop.

- Remove the magazine by depressing the magazine release button **(Fig. 10)**.
- With the finger press the disassembly latch release button which protrudes from the right side of the pistol **(Fig. 18)**. While it is held in, rotate the disassembly latch on the left side of the frame with the thumb clockwise approx. 90° downward **(Fig. 19)**.
- Pull the slide-barrel assembly with locking block, recoil spring and spring guide forwards **(Fig. 20)**.
- Slightly press recoil spring and spring guide **(Fig. 21)**.

CAUTION: Spring and spring guide are under tension.

- Lift spring guide and recoil spring, letting the latter stretch slowly.
- Depress the locking block plunger **(Fig. 22)**.
- Remove the barrel with locking block from the slidex **(Fig. 23)**.

CAUTION: No further disassembly is recommended unless done by a competent gunsmith.

MAINTENANCE

The firearm should be cleaned as soon as possible after firing. Use only high-quality, commercially-available firearm cleaning solvents and cleaning equipment.

CLEANING

WARNING: Excess oil and grease obstructing the bore, even partially, is very dangerous when firing and may cause barrel rupture and serious injury to the shooter and bystanders. Never spray or apply oil to the cartridges. Use lubricants properly. You are responsible for the proper care and maintenance of your firearm.

BARREL

- Spray the supplied brush with Beretta oil or a good grade gun oil. Insert the brush into the barrel from the chamber and scrub the chamber and bore thoroughly. If necessary, first clean the bore with a gun solvent.
- Dry the chamber and bore by pushing a cotton patch through the chamber and bore with the brush. Change the patch until it emerges clean.

CAUTION: Do not push the cleaning brush from the muzzle end toward the barrel if the barrel is still assembled on the pistol. Cleaning the barrel from the breech (chamber) end will avoid damaging the muzzle or bore.

- Clean the locking block with a cotton patch soaked in Beretta oil or a good grade gun oil. If necessary use the supplied brush.
- Lightly oil the inside of the barrel by passing through it a clean cotton patch soaked in Beretta oil or a good grade gun oil. Lightly oil the locking block and outside of the barrel.

SLIDE

- Clean the slide with a patch and Beretta oil or a good grade gun oil, paying special attention to the breech face and extractor, slide rails and underside of the breech. If necessary, use the supplied brush. Wipe slide surfaces with a clean patch.
- Lightly oil the slide.

RECOIL SPRING

Lightly oil the recoil spring with Beretta oil or a good grade gun oil. After long use it could be necessary to first scour this part using the supplied brush.

FRAME

- With a cotton patch soaked in Beretta oil or a good grade gun oil, clean all areas covered by gunpowder residue and dirt.
- Wipe outer frame surfaces clean and lightly lubricate the rails and moving parts. Lightly oil the disassembly latch, magazine catch, slide stop, trigger system, hammer, sear and the levers in front of the hammer.
- Lightly oil the frame.

MAGAZINE

- Make sure the magazine is thoroughly clean and the follower slides easily downward if pressed.
- If necessary, lightly oil with Beretta oil or a good grade gun oil the internal walls of the magazine box.

CAUTION: Do not apply excess oil. Accumulation of oil attracts dirt and dust, which can interfere with the functioning and reliability of the firearm.

WARNING: Do not attempt to alter the internal parts of your pistol's firing mechanism. Alterations to the internal parts can result in a very dangerous situation.

WARNING: Altering the internal parts of your pistol's firing mechanism voids the manufacturer's warranty.

RE-ASSEMBLY

Assemble the pistol following the Field Stripping procedure in reverse order. It is advisable to pay attention to the following points.

- When the barrel and locking block assembly are correctly inserted into the slide, they should rest securely inside the slide without movement. (The extractor must lie in its groove in the barrel).
- The locking block lugs should rest firmly in their seats in the slide (the locking block plunger should protrude from the barrel).
- The recoil spring guide head should lodge in the center of its groove in the locking block.
- When the slide and barrel assembly are placed back on the frame, the slide/barrel assembly should be pushed beyond the rear of the frame (or aligned with it) before the disassembly latch is rotated into its original position (with the disassembly latch lever parallel to the slide).

STORAGE

WARNING: Store the pistol UNLOADED, magazine empty, manual safety engaged and hammer lowered.

WARNING: Store your firearm so that children cannot gain access to it. To reduce the risk of accidents involving children, unload your firearm, lock it and store the ammunition in a separate locked location.

CAUTION: It is recommended to store the firearm in the supplied case. Before storage, always check the conditions of the pistol and its case. Make sure that they are perfectly dry.

CAUTION: Do not store your pistol in a leather, fabric or canvas holster or case. These materials attract moisture, even though they may appear to be perfectly dry.

INTERCHANGEABLE SIGHTS

92/98/96 Steel I Beretta pistols are equipped with interchangeable sights. The front sight and the Novak rear sight feature the 3-dot sight system. The rear sight is .290 inches (7.36mm) tall. The height of the front sight varies between pistols as each is fitted at the factory during the targeting and accuracy testing.

WARNING: Make sure the pistol is unloaded. If not, unload it following the "UNLOADING THE PISTOL" procedure.

NOTICE: Contact a qualified gunsmith to remove the rear sight.

- Disassemble the slide from the frame. (See paragraph "FIELD STRIPPING")

CAUTION: Spring and spring guide are under tension.

- Tighten the slide assembly in a vise, in a horizontal orientation, with the right side facing upwards, leaving the rear sight end free.

CAUTION: It is recommended to cover the jaws of the vise with some felt or other soft material in order to avoid damage to the finish of the slide assembly. Do not tighten the vise excessively. Excess pressure could deform the slide assembly.

- Loosen the set screw on the rear sight with the 1.5mm hexagonal key.
- Using a brass (or other soft material) punch, drift out the rear sight by lightly tapping with a hammer until it is completely removed. (The rear sight must be drifted out from the right to the left side of the slide).
- Insert the new rear sight in the dovetail seat and gently tap it into place until it is centered. (The rear sight must be inserted from the left to the right side of the slide).
- Tighten the set screw (if present) on the rear sight with the 1.5mm hexagonal key.
- Reassemble the slide assembly onto the pistol.

HOW TO ADJUST THE TRIGGER

(TRIGGER ADJUSTMENT FEATURE – ONLY ON 92/98/96 STEEL I SINGLE ACTION ONLY MODELS)

WARNING: Make sure the pistol is unloaded. If not, unload it following the "UNLOADING THE PISTOL" procedure.

HOW TO ADJUST THE TRIGGER OVERTRAVEL

- Disassemble the pistol (see paragraph FIELD STRIPPING).
- With the 1.5 mm hexagonal key unscrew (counter-clockwise) the lower set screw on the frame to increase the trigger overtravel and viceversa. **(Fig. 24)**

HOW TO ADJUST THE TRIGGER EXTRA SHORT LET-OFF (PRETRAVEL)

- Disassemble the pistol (see paragraph FIELD STRIPPING).
- With the 1.5 mm hexagonal key unscrew (counter-clockwise) the upper set screw on the frame to increase the trigger extra short let-off (pretravel) and viceversa. **(Fig. 25)**

HOW TO REVERSE THE MAGAZINE RELEASE BUTTON
(FOR LEFT-HANDED SHOOTERS)

WARNING: Make sure the pistol is unloaded. If not, unload it following the "UNLOADING THE PISTOL" procedure.

CAUTION: This operation should be carried out by a gunsmith.

- Remove the magazine by pushing the magazine release button. **(Fig. 10)**
- With a 2 mm hexagonal key, unscrew (counter-clockwise) the hex head grip screws and remove them, taking care not to lose the grip screw washers.
- Press the back (flat side) of the magazine release button down and away. The magazine release assembly will then drop out.

- Reverse the magazine release button and insert the button in position tilting it slightly.
- Holding the button (flat side) of the magazine release assembly firmly in place, press its flat side side and push it until it clicks into place. The operation is done correctly when the magazine slides easily into its housing.
- Reassemble grips with screws.

TROUBLESHOOTING

MALFUNCTION	PROBABLE CAUSE	REMEDY
Mis-introduction of a cartridge into the chamber	Defective cartridge	Inspect and replace cartridge
Mis-fire	Defective cartridge	Pull the trigger once more or replace cartridge
Mis-extraction or defective extraction	Dirty cartridge chamber	Clean and lubricate cartridge chamber
	Defective or dirty ammunition	Replace or clean cartridges
	Dirt under the extractor	Clean the extractor seat

WARNING: Do not attempt to make repairs to any firearm without proper knowledge or training. Do not alter parts or use substitute parts not made by Beretta. Any alterations or adjustments that may be necessary to the operating mechanism should be performed by the Manufacturer or by its Local Official Distributor.

NOTICE: There are numerous Beretta special parts and accessories that allow the personalization of your pistol. To request this extensive line of parts and accessories, please contact your local Beretta dealer.

WARRANTY AND EXTENSION OF THE WARRANTY REPAIR PERIOD

The Warranty and extension of the Warranty repair period is packed with your new Beretta firearm. Please refer to the WARRANTY and the instructions given on it in case Warranty service is required.

NOTICE: Wholesalers, dealers or gunsmiths (unless they are a Repair Station authorized by the Manufacturer and/or by its Local Official Distributors) are not authorized to make any Warranty repair or adjustment on behalf of the Manufacturer.

NOTICE: The Warranty is effective only for the original retail purchaser of the firearm.

NOTE:

Fig. 18

Fig. 19

Fig. 20

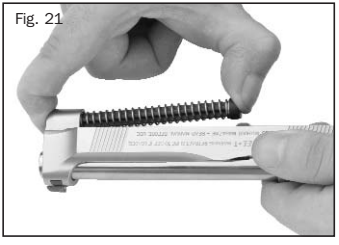


Fig. 21

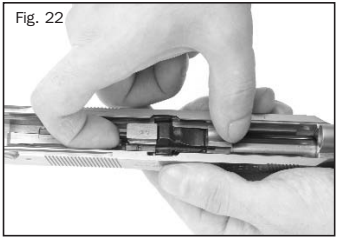


Fig. 22

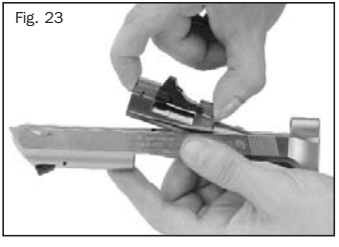


Fig. 23

Fig. 24

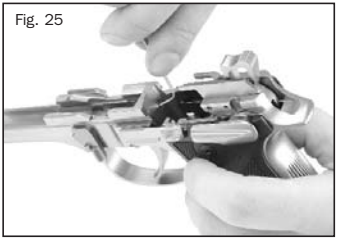


Fig. 25

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